

FAVERSHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR 1905.

In presenting my report on the Sanitary condition of the Borough of Faversham for the year 1905 I am glad to find that it is on the whole good, with no very prominent features of an unsatisfactory character. The actual number of deaths registered was 142, as against 145 in 1904. To these must be added 17 deaths occurring outside the Borough but of Borough residents, viz., 13 in the Union Infirmary and 4 in the Isolation Hospital at Kennaways. On the other hand 4 deaths of non-residents in the Cottage Hospital must be deducted. This brings a corrected total of 155 as against 158 in the previous year; being a death rate of 13.1 per 1,000 of estimated population against 13.5 for the previous year, which is a slight decrease.

There were 312 births registered; males 162, females 150. This gives a birth rate of 26.3 per 1000. In 1905 there were 295, with a rate of 25.2. So that this shews some increase. The average birth rate for the last ten years is 27.1 per 1000.

As regards the actual causes of death, the zymotic diseases give about an equal number to the previous year, but the causes are differently distributed. In 1905 there were 4 deaths from Enteric fever and 2 from Diphtheria; in 1904 only one from Enteric and none from Diphtheria. On the other hand other causes shew a reduction in 1905. There were 11 deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis, as against 16 in 1904; while in 1905 we had no death from measles and only one from whooping cough.

Of the other causes of disease we have an increase in the deaths caused by tubercular diseases, cancer, bronchitis, and heart diseases; while there is a decrease in those caused by pneumonia and by accidents. The number due to pulmonary phthisis is exactly the same as before. There does not seem to have been any marked epidemic of any disease during the year. Influenza does not seem to quite disappear and accounts for 3 deaths and may possibly be an indirect cause of others.

The number of notifications of infectious disease received during the year was 78, which is an increase on the previous year which was 63. Still we are below the average for the last ten years. Although the total number is increased, it is very gratifying to find a marked diminution in the typhoid cases, as that is always considered an index of sanitation. There were only 6 recorded against 16 in 1904, and all these were in the first half of the year. Though the number was less, the type was severe as 4 of the cases died in the Isolation Hospital. For some time scarlet fever has been prevalent in neighbouring districts so that it is not surprising that we shew some increase in this disease—16 cases against 6. Even thus we have no large number thanks to isolation. Diphtheria shews an increase of 35 cases as against 27. Among these 2 died

at their own homes. No deaths occurred among the cases removed to Hospital.

Of these 78 cases 48 were removed to the Hospital, of whom 4 died. The figures are as follows:—

	1905	1904	Removed to Hospital in 1905.
Diphtheria	35	27	25
Erysipelas	20	14	1
Scarlet Fever	16	6	16
Enteric Fever	6	16	6
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0

It will be seen that every case of scarlet fever and enteric fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Also that we had no small pox. I am glad to report that the small pox hospital at Luddenham has been visited by me and is in good order and ready for the reception of patients if required.

In all cases of infectious disease, every inquiry has been made to discover any possible cause or source of infection that might be remedied, sanitary conditions have been investigated, and school attendance controlled, while thorough disinfection has been carried out. The public wells are kept under inspection and the water from them analysed when it appears necessary; twelve samples were tested during the year. The public supply of drinking water is drawn from deep wells in the chalk from a source which does not appear liable to any risk of pollution. It has been satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year.

The regular house to house inspection of the Borough has been proceeded with, but interrupted temporarily by the suspension of the previous Sanitary Inspector. It is now resumed I am glad to say, as it is the only way to discover defects of drainage, etc., in a great many parts of the town.

The sewer ventilating shafts have done good as far as one is able to judge. The question of sewerage disposal is difficult to decide but it is to be hoped the Authority will be able to choose a method suitable to the size and circumstances of the Borough.

Regular inspection of the factories, workshops, dairies, cow-sheds, slaughterhouses, bakehouses, milkshops and lodging houses has been carried out throughout the year. No cases of infectious disease have occurred in connection with any workshop or any place where milk is dealt with. Due sanitary accommodation and ventilation have been provided for. We have one underground bakehouse which is in a satisfactory condition. By visits to the various premises we have endeavoured to procure the due carrying out of the provisions of the Factory and Workshops' Act.

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Medical Officer of Health.

February 6th, 1906.

